

## Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 IOE-00 SCI-06 HEW-08 AID-20

NSF-04 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 OIC-04 RSR-01 /145 W

----- 039056

P R 261427 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6573

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1601

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : WHO, PFOR, KS, KN, NO

SUBJ: 26 TH WHA: NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION FOR WHO MEMBERSHIP

REF: ( A ) STATE 70703 ( B ) STATE 66738 ( C ) STATE 65086

( D ) OSLO 1283

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE PROS SEEM TO OUTWEIGH THE CONS IN PRELIMINARY NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY THINKING ON NORTH KOREAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. A SENIOR OFFICIAL WOULD NOT PREDICT HOW NORWAY'S VOTE WILL BE DECIDED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE OTHER FOUR NORDICS SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP, NORWAY'S FAILURE TO DO SO MIGHT RE-DIRECT DOMESTIC ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT NORWAY IS DRAGGING ITS HEELS ON IMPLEMENTING THE RECENT NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' DECLARATION FAVORING RECOGNITION OF PYONGYANG. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A CALL ON KJELD VIBE, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL  
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AFFAIRS, ON APRIL 26, AN EMBASSY OFFICER EXPRESSED THE HOPE OF THE US GOVERNMENT THAT NORWAY WOULD VOTE FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION AT THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND LEFT AN AIDE MEMOIRE OUTLINING THE REASONS FOR THE US POSITION AS SET FORTH IN PARA 3 OF REF C.

2. VIBE SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT STAFF LEVEL WILL SHORTLY DRAW UP A PROS- AND- CONS PAPER SO THAT A DECISION CAN BE TAKEN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER BEFORE MAY 7. WHILE UNWILLING TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME, HE STRESSED THE DIFFICULTY OF THE DECISION FOR NORWAY. RECALLING THE ACTION OF THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA ( REF. D), HE SPECULATED THAT BY THE TIME OF THE WHA VOTE ALL OF THE OTHER FOUR NORDICS WOULD HAVE EXTENDED RECOGNITION. ( WE ASKED WHETHER THE ICELANDERS WOULD BE MOVING THAT FAST, AND HE SAID HE THOUGHT THEIR PLAN WAS TO ACT IN CONCERT WITH THE DANES.)

3. BECAUSE OF THEIR " VERY GOOD RELATIONS" WITH SOUTH KOREA, VIBE CONTINUED, THE NORWEGIANS ARE TAKING MORE TIME ON EXTENDING RECOGNITION TO PYONGYANG, THOUGH IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY WILL DO SO " AT SOME POINT IN TIME." THIS THEREFORE LEAVES THEM FACING A " DILEMMA" WITH REGARD TO THE WHA VOTE. WHILE SKEPTICAL THAT ANY PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN THE NORTH- SOUTH TALKS, NORWAY AGREES IN PRINCIPLE THAT POLITICAL ISSUES OF THIS SORT SHOULD BE DECIDED BY THE PARENT ORGANIZATION RATHER THAN BY SUBORDINATE TECHNICAL BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. BUT IT HAS MADE EXCEPTIONS IN CERTAIN CASES, AND THE DECISION ON EVENTUAL RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA WOULD ARGUE FOR AN EXCEPTION IN THIS CASE. AT THE SAME TIME, FAILURE TO VOTE FOR NORTH KOREAN MEMBERSHIP, IF THE OTHER FOUR NORDICS DO SO, WOULD SERVE TO HIGHLIGHT NORWAY'S DIVERGENCE FROM THE OTHERS AND MIGHT REOPEN THE QUESTION DOMESTICALLY OF WHY NORWAY IS DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' AGREEMENT ON RECOGNITION.

4. WE STRESSED ONCE MORE THE REASONS FAVORING POSTPONEMENT, AND VIBE ASSURED US THAT THE US VIEWS WOULD BE FULLY CONSIDERED.  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** 26TH WHA: NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION FOR WHO MEMBERSHIP  
**TAGS:** PFOR, KN, KS, NO, WHO  
**To:** IO  
STATE INFO COPENHAGEN  
GENEVA  
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